

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10  
IO-14 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02  
INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-09 OIC-02 CCO-00  
OTPE-00 FCC-02 OC-06 ICA-20 BIB-01 L-03 NASA-02  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /148 W

-----037568 241705Z /50

R 241525Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8458

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 11700

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, IMCO

SUBJECT: INMARSAT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING,  
LONDON, JULY 19-21, 1978

1. SUMMARY: PREPARATORY COMMITTEE SATISFACTORILY  
ADDRESSED ALL ITEMS ON ITS AGENDA. IT DID NOT QUESTION  
ANY OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE THREE PANELS IT HAD  
CREATED TO STUDY TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC, AND ORGANIZATIONAL  
QUESTIONS. THERE WERE NO POLITICAL PROBLEMS. END  
SUMMARY

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF 21 GOVERNMENTS AND/OR THEIR  
DESIGNATED ENTITIES, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF 8 INTER-  
NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED IN THIRD MEETING  
INMARSAT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (PREPCOM). PRIMARY

BUSINESS WAS REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF FINAL REPORTS  
FROM THREE PANELS WHICH PREPCOM HAD CREATED IN 1977  
TO STUDY VARIOUS TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC, AND ORGANIZA-  
TIONAL QUESTIONS INCIDENT TO THE DESIGN AND IMPE-  
MENTATION OF A MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE  
SYSTEM AND TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ORGANIZATION  
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TO MANAGE THE SYSTEM. UPON ADOPTION OF REPORTS, PANELS  
WERE DISBANDED.

3. ADOPTION OF PANEL REPORTS NECESSARILY INVOLVED  
ADOPTION OF TEXTS PREPARED BY PANELS FOR INCLUSION  
BY PREPCOM IN ITS INTERIM REPORT TO GOVERNMENTS. THIS  
REPORT, MANDATED BY RESOLUTION 2 OF 1976 INMARSAT

CONFERENCE, MUST BE SENT TO GOVERNMENTS BY END OF YEAR.  
PRIOR TO FOURTH MEETING OF PREPCOM, DECEMBER 18-22  
(INSTEAD OF NOVEMBER 6-10 AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED),  
CHAIRMAN OF PREPCOM, IN CONSULTATION WITH CHAIRMEN  
OF PANELS, WILL PREPARE DRAFT OF REPORT.

4. PREPCOM DID NOT DISTURB RECOMMENDATIONS OF THREE  
PANELS. AMONG MORE SIGNIFICANT MATTERS TO U.S. WERE:  
1) TECHNICAL PANEL'S DECISION TO ACCEPT DESCRIPTION  
OF TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MARISAT SYSTEM AS  
FORMING THE BASIS OF THE INITIAL INMARSAT COMMUNICA-  
TIONS SYSTEM, AND ITS CONCLUSION THAT THERE WAS IN-  
SUFFICIENT TECHNICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR A DECISION  
AT THIS TIME ON THE ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM TO BE EMPLOYED;  
2) ECONOMIC PANEL'S CONCLUSION THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE  
AT THIS TIME TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION IN RESPECT OF  
SPACE SEGMENT FACILITY ALTERNATIVES; AND 3) ORGANI-  
ZATIONAL PANEL'S DRAFT PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, DRAFT  
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF INMARSAT COUNCIL AND ASSEMBLY,  
DRAFT HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT AND DRAFT PROTOCOL ON  
PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.

5. ALTHOUGH EACH OF THE PANELS HAD IDENTIFIED FURTHER  
WORK WHICH WOULD BE DESIRABLE, PREPCOM DID NOT ENDORSE  
ANY FURTHER WORK BEFORE ITS FOURTH MEETING WITH THE  
EXCEPTION OF CERTAIN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS TO BE CARRIED  
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OUT BY CHAIRMAN OF ECONOMIC PANEL ON SPACE SEGMENT  
FACILITY OPTION BEING JOINTLY DEVELOPED BY INTELSAT  
AND EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ESA). THIS ADDITIONAL WORK  
IS NECESSARY BECAUSE PREPCOM WAS INFORMED THAT INTELSAT  
AND ESA ARE DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL THAT HAD NOT HERE-  
TOFORE BEEN CONSIDERED, VIZ., THREE INTELSAT V  
SATELLITES WITH MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS SUBSYSTEMS,  
COMPLEMENTED BY THREE MARECS SATELLITES.

6. PREPCOM WAS INFORMED BY U.K. DEL THAT AN INTER-  
NATIONALLY FUNDED JOINT VENTURE HAD BEEN ACTING AS  
THE CATALYST FOR DEVELOPING THE NEW INTELSAT/ESA  
OPTION. U.K. REP SAID THAT JOINT VENTURE PARTICIPANTS  
BELIEVED A DECISION HAD TO BE TAKEN ON PROCUREMENT  
OF SATELLITES TO FOLLOW U.S. MARISAT SYSTEM BEFORE  
INMARSAT WOULD BE JURIDICALLY ABLE TO DO SO. (IT  
IS NOT NOW ANTICIPATED THAT INMARSAT AGREEMENTS WILL  
ENTER INTO FORCE BEFORE SUMMER 1979.) U.K. SAID JOINT  
VENTURE PARTICIPANTS WERE PREPARED TO TAKE PROCUREMENT  
DECISION, AND WERE IN PROCESS OF CREATING PRE-INMARSAT  
ORGANIZATION FOR THIS LIMITED PURPOSE. FRENCH AND  
FRG DELS STATED THEIR CONCERN THAT INADEQUATE TIME

REMAINED FOR CREATION OF THIS PRE-INMARSAT ORGANIZATION  
AND STATED THEIR PREFERENCE FOR RELIANCE ON USE OF

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EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS, INTELSAT AND INTERIM EUTELSAT  
(EUROPEAN POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTRIES).  
U.S. IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THIS PRE-INMARSAT ORGANI-  
ZATION, AND UK AND OTHERS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IT WOULD  
BE DESIRABLE FOR IT TO DO SO. U.S. REP WAS NON-COMMITTAL.

7. U.K. DEL, IN REVIEWING DISCUSSIONS OF JOINT VENTURE  
PARTICIPANTS, NOTED PARTICIPANTS' VIEW THAT A HYBRID  
SATELLITE SYSTEM COMBINING MILITARY AND PUBLIC  
CORRESPONDENCE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS COULD NOT BE  
CONSIDERED SUITABLE FOR A SYSTEM TO FOLLOW THE MARISAT  
SYSTEM. SUBSEQUENTLY, JAPANESE AND CANADIAN REPS  
INFORMED U.S. REP THAT THEY HAD ONLY RELUCTANTLY CON-  
CURRED IN THIS VIEW. USSR REP, ON OTHER HAND, EMPHASIZED  
TO U.S. REP THAT HYBRID SYSTEM WOULD BE TOTALLY UN-  
ACCEPTABLE.

8. PREPCOM REVIEWED AND APPROVED FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS  
FOR 1977. REPORT BY IMCO SECGEN ON 1978 ACCOUNTS  
SHOWED U.S. AS AMONG VERY FEW COUNTRIES WHICH  
HAD NOT PAID ASSESSMENT FOR CY 78. TOTAL AMOUNT DUE  
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IS \$7,472.00.

9. PREPCOM NOTED THAT SEVERAL QUESTIONS HAD ARISEN WITH RESPECT TO INTERPRETATION OF ENTRY INTO FORCE REQUIREMENTS AND ANNEX SETTING OUT INITIAL INVESTMENT SHARES. THESE QUESTIONS WERE SUMMARIZED AND A POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENTS ELABORATED FOR REFERRAL TO GOVERNMENTS.

10. IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE IMCO'S REQUEST FOR ADVICE WHETHER THE PREPCOM DESIRED TO RESERVE SPACE FOR MEETINGS IN 1979, PREPCOM DECIDED TO TENTATIVELY RESERVE MAY 14-18 AND SEPTEMBER 17-21. THE DECISION WHETHER TO CONVENE MEETINGS WILL BE TAKEN AT PREPCOM'S DECEMBER 1978 MEETING, IN CONJUNCTION WITH EXAMINATION OF INTERIM REPORT TO GOVERNMENTS AND 1979 BUDGET.

BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMITTEE MEETINGS, NAVIGATIONAL AIDS, SATELLITES, MEETING REPORTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 jul 1978  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** INMARSAT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING, LONDON, JULY 19-21, 1978  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014